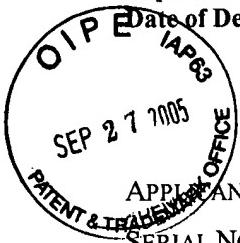


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Nguyen et al.

SERIAL NO.: 10/677,977

EXAMINER: Teresa D. Wessendorf

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ART UNIT: 1639

FOR: Methods of Generating and Screening for Proteases with Altered Specificity

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

This paper is in response to the Office Action mailed March 28, 2005, in the above-referenced application. A petition for a three-month extension of time and the required fee are filed herewith. With this extension of time, a response is due by September 28, 2005.

Please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks prior to further prosecution in this matter.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 12 of this paper.